



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 25, 1998

H.R. 3096

An Act to Correct a Provision Relating to Termination of Benefits for Convicted Persons

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
on June 17, 1998*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3096 would amend Title 5 of the U.S. Code to clarify the wording of one provision. The section to be amended causes individuals convicted of fraud in the application or receipt of workers' compensation benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to forfeit their entitlement. Although the current wording in Title 5 is not precisely the same as the section it references in Title 18, 103 individuals have had their benefits terminated upon conviction of fraud under FECA since 1993, when the law first became effective. Absent this change, the ability of the Department of Labor to terminate some fraudulently collected benefits could be affected. However, there have been no cases where the inconsistent wording has been used as a defense against termination of benefits. It is unlikely, therefore, that enactment of this legislation would have any significant effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 3096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On March 12, 1998, CBO provided an identical estimate of the cost of this act to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

This estimate was prepared by Christina Hawley Sadoti (federal cost), Marc Nicole (impact on state, local and tribal governments), and Kathryn Rarick (impact on the private sector). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.